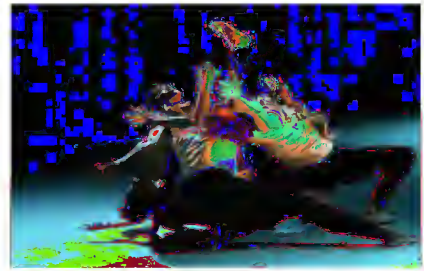




Lee



Eclectix Chamber Orchestra



Eclectix Dance Company

## Lee McClure

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### Bio

**Lee McClure** (born October 18, 1947) composer, impresario, performer of self-designed electric flute.

Acknowledged as one of the most melodic composers in the last 60 years of classical music, Lee has created a distinctly recognizable style developing from the music of Ravel, Gershwin, Weill, Copland and contemporary Jazz. In 1985 in New York City Lee founded the Eclectix Chamber Orchestra that has presented the music of more than 100 living composers. Eclectix has stirred controversy by championing new melodic and tonal music that is not minimal nor atonal.

Lee's major classical works include symphonic, modern dance and choral compositions. The first of his two operas with librettos by the Pulitzer-Prize-nominated playwright Ron Whyte is *"Mother And Child"* that premiered at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine (NYCity). The Gregg Smith Singers premiered his *"Litany to the Holy Spirit"* for chorus and piano. Lee's *"Symphony No.1"* for symphonic orchestra and Jazz drummer invented the form of stylistic variations. *"Suite from the Voyage"* for two pianos is Lee's modern dance score with Impressionistic, neo-Classical, Jazz-influenced and Gershwinesque sections.

In 2007 Lee founded the Eclectix Dance Company for which he creates the music on his electric flute in addition to concepts for the choreography, lighting and costume design. Amplifying a silver flute through twelve processors and a sampler, Lee's electric flute creates grand-canyon echoes, a profound bass, three-octave glissandos, complex harmonies and other striking effects. In some pieces layers of ambient sounds, percussion or bass flute are faded in and out via the sampler.

A recipient of numerous ASCAP Special Awards, Lee's compositions have been performed by the Old First Orchestra of San Francisco, the Saturday Brass Quintet, and he has received commissions from the Janet Gerson Dance Company, the King David Orchestra, and the Breve Trio. August 2014 marks the 20th year accordionist William Schimmel has presented in concert duets composed and performed by Schimmel and McClure.

Built for serious contemporary Jazz improvisations, Lee's 2008 CD: *A Jazz Christmas Like You've Never Heard* was played on 40 radio stations around the U.S. It is McClure's highly unusual arrangements of standard Christmas songs featuring Margaret Dorn (vocals) and Chris Hunter (sax):

<http://cdbaby.com/cd/leemclure2>

*Black Light* is the 2011 CD of Lee's trio featuring his electric flute with guitarist Barry Wedgle and percussionist Eddie Hall:

<http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/leemcluretrio>

### Press Quotes

The Eclectix Chamber Orchestra's premiere of McClure's composition, *Hiatus*, won the praise of **The New York Times** critic Tim Page who declared:

*"It was probably the most distinguished piece on the program: the harmonies had bite and the musical ideas seemed both organic and Mr. McClure's own."*

In a staged reading at the Cathedral of St. John The Divine with a libretto by the Pulitzer-Prize-nominated playwright Ron Whyte, the opera *Mother And Child* was reviewed in **The New York Times** by Bernard Holland who wrote:

*"McClure's music is...eclectic...from Broadway to sentimental pop ballad to angry instrumental harmonies to a recitative style that at times implies total dissonance. ... This is truly an embryo of a production waiting to be born."*

McClure is the founder and director of the new-music concert series, ***Eclectix*** which has presented the music of over 100 living composers in New York City. **The New York Times** has written about Eclectix:

*"a group dedicated to presenting melodic music in the tradition of Debussy, Gershwin, and Ellington . . . Most of this repertory grew out of a tonal, melody-accompaniment tradition, and a lot of it by way of American popular culture."*

Herb Boyd wrote in **The New York Amsterdam News**:

*"A rather adventurous foray into the realm of improvisation by cellist Paul de Jong and flutist **Lee McClure**, the series' director, opened the evening. Both musicians played electrified instruments, and their best moments*

*occurred when de Jong settled snugly behind McClure's flute, which sounded like a bowed bass fiddle. The duo's often lively performance stood in contrast to Toni and Gordon Parks song cycle: In Love."*

## Links

**"Cerulean Narrows"** for orchestra (2 minute excerpt)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5COi3Dd6ck>

**"Symphony No.1 - Montage"** for orchestra (8 min's)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDH\\_6k6yxjY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDH_6k6yxjY)

**Film Noir Memoir** for solo piano (5 min's)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=90ZRpnqZ1So&feature=youtu.be>

**Through A Glass Darkly** for electric flute (5 min's)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eejwDqkk-rA>

**"Litany to the Holy Spirit"** for chorus and piano (14 min's)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fx6NmVr\\_Gtc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fx6NmVr_Gtc)

**"Elohim and Adam"** for soprano, narrator and orchestra (7 min's)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StSz-D0l2lQ&feature=youtu.be>

**"Hiatus"** for orchestra (video of performance) (10 min's)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMa29HPGbDQ>

## Background

Born in Kentucky and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Lee studied at University of California Berkeley, San Francisco Art Institute, and Berklee College of Music in Boston. His formal composition training began with a three-year scholarship of private tutorials studying Schoenberg's *Harmonielehre* at the Turtle Bay Music School in NYC. He received his B.S in music composition from Brooklyn College (CUNY) in 1979.

Using his matrilineal name, McClure is the son of the late Rev. Dr. Arnold B. Come, Presbyterian theologian, Kierkegaard scholar, author, and president of the San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, California. At age 11 Lee began playing the flute in Basil, Switzerland during his father's sabbatical.

Lee has been a volunteer in the political campaigns of Ralph Nader, Dennis Kucinich, and Bill de Blasio. On the steps of the U.S. Capitol building, Lee organized a group photo of U.S. Representatives in favor of "Medicare for all" (cradle-to-grave free health care provided by the federal government).